

5 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, St/I/R
25X1A9a

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

THROUGH: Chief, Geographic Area

THROUGH: Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Geographic Reporting from the
Budapest Legation

REFERENCE: St/I Notice No. 60-36, dated 20 September 1960

1. It is recognized that the Budapest Legation has during the evaluation period been seriously impeded in its reportage by travel restrictions imposed upon it by the Hungarian government. The reportage to date under such adverse conditions has been commendable.

2. The Geography Division is most pleased with the area and regional publications, administrative and town plans, and other special subject maps procured to date. It is requested that procurement be continued of such maps and publications as they become available. Information relating to field mapping, map production, and SovBloc mapping conferences are of immediate need and have a great value. Reportage on National and SovBloc meetings covering regionalization, economic geography, geography, and the Danube Commission are of value.

3. Undoubtedly due to priority and the travel restrictions, material reported of geographic interest has been marginal. In Foreign Service Despatches 668 and 687 of June 9 and June 23, 1960 respectively, comments on terrain conditions and how they may impede cross-country movement, road conditions, and drainage conditions would have enhanced the value of the reports. Reports on the popular attitudes of people within a geographic area, and pertinent legation comments on such attitudes (e.g. Foreign Service Despatch 114 of August 30, 1960) are of value to this Division. Appraisal of suggested "drop zones" as suggested in Foreign Service Despatch 114, would be appreciated.

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4. The British Press Surveys and Reports on the Provincial Press have contained items of geographic interest and value. It is requested that these be continued.

5. Information on the international borders is of current interest. Of particular value are points of irritation between Hungary and its neighbor states. Continued interest remains on the physical obstacles along the border and restrictions placed upon the peoples living in or traveling into the border zones.

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Chief, Europe Branch

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